

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, IT, OECD, US

SUBJECT: TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR MARCH 17 VISIT ASST SEC-
RETARY ENDERS

REF: A. ELY-BOSWORTH TELECON, MARCH 13

B. STATE 056423

1. ECON-COMM MINISTER'S MARCH 13 DISCUSSION WITH COSTA, MFA
OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY AFFAIRS EXPLORED SCHEDULE AND TOP-
ICS GOI WILL WISH TO RAISE DURING MARCH 17 VISIT OF ASST SEC
ENDERS. DISCUSSION ALSO CLEARED UP SOME POINTS RAISED IN PM
MORO LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD.

2. COSTA WAS INITIALLY DISAPPOINTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ENDERS WILL BE COMING ALONE. MFA HAD ALREADY PUT TOGETHER A
FIVE OR SIX MEMBER TEAM ANTICIPATING THAT ENDERS WOULD BE AC-
COMPANIED BY TREAS AND FEA REPS. HE ASKED THAT WASHINGTON
CONSIDER ADDING ADDITIONAL US REPRESENTATIVES. WE TOLD HIM
WE WOULD TRANSMIT REQUEST BUT APPEARED TO US THAT TIGHT TIMING
WOULD MAKE CHANGES DIFFICULT.

3. SCHEDULING. IN ADDITION TO MEETING WITH FONMIN RUMOR,
MEETING WILL BE SET UP WITH MINISTER INDUSTRY DONAT CATTIN AT
HIS REQUEST. (LATTER IN ANTICIPATION OF TWO DAY VISIT HAD
ASKED FOR MEETINGS AT BEGINNING AND END OF ENDERS' STAY.)
COSTA ASKED IF ENDERS COULD STAY FOR WRAP-UP SESSION MORNING
OF MARCH 18. WE DISCOURAGED SUGGESTION.

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4. PRICE LEVELS. COSTA NOTED THAT GOI POSITION HAS EVOLVED IN LIGHT OF RESULTS OF MARCH 6-7 IEA GB MEETING. GOI POLICY THINKING NOW BASED ON SINGLE FLOOR PRICE CONCEPT INSTEAD OF EARLIER MULTIPLE PRICE LEVEL APPROACH. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOI HAS BEEN CONVINCED, BUT THAT TO AVOID ISOLATION AND LAST-MINUTE DISTURBANCES, GOI CONCEDED POINT TO MAJORITY AT GB. SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN WITH ENDERS.

5. URANIUM. GOI BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT NATURAL URANIUM SUPPLIES SUFFICIENT TO FUEL AMBITIOUS NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAM NOW ON THE DRAWING BOARDS. RECENT VISITS BY AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER HAVE PRODUCED NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE.

6. FINANCIAL. COSTA NOTED GOI ATTACHED MUCH IMPORTANCE TO POSSIBILITY OF HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH TREASURY MINISTRY. SUBSTANCE PROBABLY RELATES TO (A) EXCHANGE OF VIEW ON PROGRESS IN RE-CYCLING PETRODOLLARS, (B) EVENTUAL NEED FOR ITALIAN DRAWINGS ON SOLIDARITY FUND, AND (C) POSSIBILITY OF US FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION FOR ITALIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR BUILDING PROGRAM.

7. STRATEGIC. COSTA MENTIONED GOI DESIRE FOR BROAD DISCUSSION OF GLOBAL STRATEGIC AND GEOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF ENERGY POLICY, IN LIGHT OF FACTS AFFECTING ITALY.

8. COMMENT: GOI ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ENDERS VISIT. WE BELIEVE THAT GOI WILL ACCEPT POSITIONS ADVANCED BY US IN IEA, BUT WANTS TO BE PERSUADED. VISIT WILL HELP MFA SELL IEA PROGRAM TO OTHER MINISTRIES (SUCH AS INDUSTRY) NOT NECESSARILY SHARING MFA'S BROADER OUTLOOK. THIS IS ALL TO THE GOOD IN LIGHT OF CONSISTENT AND IMPORTANT UNDERCURRENT OF INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO ITALIAN POSITIONS TAKEN IN IEA. MFA OFFICIALS ARE NOT GENERALLY IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS DIRECTLY THESE CONCERNS AND POLITICAL LEVELS OF GOI HAVE BEEN SLOW IN MAKING THE CASE. VOLPE

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